DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Martandan Vaidyan, your representation covers very wide subjects and difficult problems. I doubt whether anybody is in a position to say why Vaidyans should get a grant-in-aid of Rs. 15 while a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery should start on a considerably higher pay. These are matters on which we cannot decide in terms of pure logic. There are various considerations that enter into the question. However, all that you have said will be considered in consultation with the Government's advisers on Ayurveda.

In regard to the other points you raised in the matter of education of Ezhavas and their re-awakening, these too will be looked into.

56. Maintenance of public health.

MR. CHACKO MATHEW (*Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery*) said that the condition of public health in the State was very poor. Almost every other man whom one met in the street was suffering from some disease. There was hardly a pupil who did not want spectacles. According to statistics, 96 per cent of the population were suffering from hookworm. Diseases of the heart, tuberculosis, etc. could be met with anywhere. It was high time to devise measures for combating the spread of these diseases.

The member next referred to the statistics of births and deaths which disclosed the high rate of mortality prevailing in the State. From the figures of deaths registered one could see that the average age at which deaths occurred was 60 in Travancore whereas in European countries it was 80. The rate of infant mortality was also very high.

In order to attend to public health there were several departments under the Government. In urban areas, municipal councils were entrusted with the administration of public health. But most of these councils had no funds to carry out any new schemes. So far as the several departments were concerned, they were also not quite equal to the task. The member would suggest that the Sanitary Department should be made a major department and made solely responsible for the maintenance of public health. The department might carry on propaganda work by means of distribution of pamphlets, instruction in schools, etc.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chacko Mathew, Government are entirely at one with you in holding that the state of public health in Travancore is not at all as it should be. It is with a view to ameliorate the position in respect of public health that they are now endeavouring to make arrangements that will view the whole question comprehensively and devise methods for correcting evils which now prevail.

57. Promotion of public health with special reference to schools, hospitals, and municipalities.

DR. KOSHY PALAKUNNATHU (*Member, Nominated*) spoke of public health with reference to municipal councils, hospitals and schools. As regards municipal councils, the member said that their chief activities in relation to the administration of public health were confined to sanitation, control of the sale of foodstuffs and vaccination. But even in respect of these things, all that was possible or necessary was not being done. Practically little was also being done for the prevention of diseases like malaria, typhoid, elephantiasis, hookworm, etc. Government should put more life into the work of the municipalities in these directions.

So far as rural sanitation was concerned, the maintenance of sanitation in public markets claimed careful attention. Under the existing rules, markets were under the dual control of the Sanitary Department and the Revenue Department. This dual control should be abolished and the Sanitary Department should be made solely responsible for the sanitation of markets. The officers of the Sanitary Department should also be invested with statutory powers to enforce sanitation in rural areas. Another measure that was necessary was the institution of a publicity bureau to do propaganda work in sanitation and public health. Leaflets might be distributed by this agency and magic lantern lectures might be delivered in various places. The publicity bureau might be attached to the Trivandrum municipality and

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